QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS

How to import furniture into India under the BIS rules

To import furniture into India under the Furniture QCO, the foreign factory must hold a BIS licence for the product and mark every piece under it. The importer can't hold that licence or apply for it. Goods ordered by August 12, 2026 can be exempt until December 31, 2026, under S.O. 5950(E).

YES, IF EVERY PIECE carries the ISI mark under a BIS licence held by the factory that made it. That has applied to work chairs, chairs and stools, tables and desks, storage units, beds and bunk beds since February 13, 2026. Beyond narrow exemptions, the only other route is DPIIT permission for a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013.

KEY FACTS

ORDER
S.O. 801(E) of 2025

IN FORCE SINCE
February 13, 2026

STANDARDS
IS 17631 to IS 17636

UPDATED
November 8, 2026



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Quality Control Orders · November 8, 2026

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Can you still import furniture into India?

Yes, if every piece carries the ISI mark under a BIS licence held by the factory that made it. That has applied to work chairs, chairs and stools, tables and desks, storage units, beds and bunk beds since February 13, 2026. Beyond narrow exemptions, the only other route is DPIIT permission for a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013.

The furniture QCO requires each of its six products to meet its Indian Standard and carry the BIS Standard Mark, the ISI mark, under a Scheme-I licence from BIS (S.O. 801(E) of 2025, para 2).

Section 17(1) of the BIS Act, 2016 bars anyone from importing, making, selling or storing such goods without the Standard Mark under a valid licence. BIS's FAQ for foreign makers says they "can be imported to India only with Standard Mark under a valid licence from BIS" (FMCS FAQ 2).

The QCO is one import requirement among several.

Who holds the BIS licence for imported furniture?

The foreign factory holds it, not the importer. Under BIS's Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS), "the application shall be made by the foreign manufacturer only" (FMCS FAQ 17). Each product and Indian Standard needs its own application for each factory location (FAQ 13 and 14), so each supplier factory needs its own licence.

A licence application is "for a product at a manufacturing premise" (FMCS FAQ 15). If you import furniture from China or anywhere else through a trading company, the licence that counts is the factory's. If you switch factories, the new one needs its own licence.

The factory also nominates an Authorized Indian Representative (AIR), a resident of India who answers for compliance (FMCS FAQ 5 and 6). An importer related to the foreign maker can be

that representative (FAQ 6).

On June 25, 2025, India told the WTO that BIS had received no furniture application under FMCS (WTO trade concern 828). We haven't found a later official count. See how a foreign factory gets its BIS licence.

What should you check before you order furniture from abroad?

Check five things in your supplier's BIS licence before you order: the factory, the Indian Standard, the models, the dates and its record with BIS. A licence covers only the product, factory and varieties written in it, so a valid licence for one item doesn't cover the next.

1. Match the factory.

The licence must name the plant that makes your goods. BIS licenses one product at one factory location (FMCS FAQ 13 to 15).

2. Match the standard.

One licence covers one product and one Indian Standard (BIS's product certification FAQ, Q24): IS 17631 for a work chair, IS 17635 for a bed. See the six furniture standards.

3. Match the model.

A licence "is valid only for the varieties mentioned in the licence" (FMCS FAQ 19). Check your model is in its scope.

4. Check the dates.

A Scheme-I licence runs up to two years at first and can be renewed for up to five (BIS FAQ Q18). BIS can also suspend or cancel one (Q26 and Q27).

5. Verify it with BIS.

Look it up on BIS's public dashboards, in the free BIS CARE app (Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 2938, August 19, 2025) or on BIS's list of FMCS licensees.

Where IndusDesk fits

Our regulatory and trade advisory work checks each product you import against the rules that apply to it. See a past case, imports cleared under another quality control order, or contact IndusDesk.

Can furniture enter India if the supplier has only applied for BIS certification?

No. The order requires the ISI mark under a licence, and an application isn't one (S.O. 801(E), para 2). Only two provisos, both added by S.O. 774(E), count an application, and both serve makers: research imports of up to 200 pieces a year, and declared stock made or imported before February 13, 2026.

Neither helps a trading importer: both are for a manufacturer "certified by the Bureau" or one "who has applied to the Bureau for certification" (S.O. 774(E), para 2).

Can furniture ordered before August 12, 2026 still come in without the ISI mark?

Furniture ordered on or before August 12, 2026 can still come in without the ISI mark if two more dates fit. Under S.O. 5950(E), the Bill of Lading must be issued by November 30, 2026 and the Bill of Entry by December 31, 2026. The importer then sends BIS copies of the papers within seven days of clearance.

The import exemption since November 2, 2026, and the two S.O. 1125(E) windows it replaced

Proviso	Condition	Paperwork	Status
S.O. 5950(E), paragraph 2	Purchase order placed on or before August 12, 2026; Bill of Lading issued on or before November 30, 2026; Bill of Entry issued on or before December 31, 2026	Purchase order, Bill of Lading, Bill of Entry and supporting papers to BIS on signed letterhead, within 7 days of clearance	Running since November 2, 2026
S.O. 1125(E): shipped before February 13, 2026	Bill of Lading dated before February 13, 2026; Bill of Entry on or before 180 days after that date	None named in the proviso	Closed about mid-August 2026, by our count of 180 days from February 13, 2026; replaced November 2, 2026

S.O. 1125(E): ordered before February 13, 2026	Purchase order placed before February 13, 2026; Bill of Lading and Bill of Entry dated within 180 days from the date "the said order came into force"	Purchase order, Bill of Lading, Bill of Entry and supporting papers to BIS on letterhead, within 7 days of clearance	Closed in August 2026 by our count, whether the 180 days run from February 13 or March 2, 2026; replaced November 2, 2026

The new proviso also covers orders placed after February 13, 2026, up to August 12, 2026. It came into force on publication and doesn't say whether it reaches goods cleared before November 2, 2026 (S.O. 5950(E), paras 1(2) and 2).

What happens if furniture reaches an Indian port without the ISI mark?

Importing any of the six products without the ISI mark, unless an exemption covers them, breaks section 17(1) of the BIS Act, 2016. Section 29(3) makes that punishable with up to two years' imprisonment, a fine of at least ₹2 lakh for a first breach, or both. We found no customs procedure published for furniture.

The fine is at least ₹5 lakh for a later breach and can reach ten times the value of the goods (section 29(3)).

We searched CBIC's index of 591 customs instructions on October 28, 2026. It has instructions on several other QCOs, among them toys, steel and cross recessed screws, and none on furniture.

Which HS codes does the furniture QCO cover?

The furniture QCO doesn't name any HS codes. It lists products by Indian Standard (S.O. 801(E), Table). India's WTO notification of the draft order, G/TBT/N/IND/318, gives no HS code, only the standards code ICS 97.140 for furniture. Coverage turns on whether a product falls under one of the six standards.

Under the transition route, the applicant gives 8-digit ITC-HS codes for its own goods (DPIIT's guidelines for the order, para 2.3). That isn't a list of what the QCO covers, and we found no official one.

Do imported parts and flat-pack furniture need the ISI mark?

Flat-pack furniture does: BIS's product manuals say all six standards apply to ready-to-assemble units. Parts that a furniture maker in India imports to make furniture for export are exempt under S.O. 774(E). The order says nothing on parts imported for assembly in India, but the finished piece needs the ISI mark unless an exemption covers it.

BIS's product manuals for IS 17631, IS 17632, IS 17633, IS 17634, IS 17635 and IS 17636 each say the standard applies to "completely manufactured/ fabricated" units "as well as ready-to-assemble units" (Annex A, para 1).

Under the export exemption, a furniture maker in India files a self-declaration and undertakes not to sell the imported parts in India (S.O. 774(E), para 2, third inserted proviso).

Hinges (S.O. 1368(E) of 2025) and telescopic ball bearing drawer slides (S.O. 1962(E) of 2024) have their own quality control orders. See BIS certification for furniture materials.

Can an importer bring in 200 pieces a year without the mark?

No. The 200-piece allowance in S.O. 774(E) is only for a furniture maker that holds a BIS licence or has applied for one. The pieces are for research and development: they can't be sold commercially, must be disposed of as scrap, and are recorded each year for the Central Government. A trading importer can't use it.

The limit is "two hundred numbers" per financial year (S.O. 774(E), para 2). See furniture QCO exemptions for all five still running.

Is there another route for an Indian company?

Yes, for a company incorporated under India's Companies Act, 2013. Since June 25, 2026, the Transition Facilitation Order, S.O. 3417(E), has let DPIIT permit such a company to buy furniture made under a BIS Scheme II licence, after a risk assessment by an Implementation Committee. Applications are accepted for 24 months, to about late June 2028 by our count.

A maker can hold that Scheme II licence only to supply the permitted company (S.O. 3417(E), clause 3(2)). For everyone else, the Scheme-I licence is still the rule. See the Transition Facilitation Order for furniture.

Does the small-business exemption cover imported furniture?

Whether the small-business exemption covers imported furniture isn't settled. On February 13, 2026, S.O. 777(E) rewrote the exemption for Udyam-registered enterprises and dropped the word "domestically" from it. The order doesn't say whether imported furniture is now covered, and Udyam registration is for Indian enterprises. No document we've read answers the question.

The original exempted goods "manufactured domestically by an enterprise" on the Udyam Portal (S.O. 801(E), para 2). The new text says "manufactured by an enterprise", with investment up to ₹1 crore and turnover up to ₹5 crore (S.O. 777(E), Table, S. No. 8).

Frequently asked questions

Does an importer need its own BIS licence to resell imported furniture?

No. The licence is the foreign factory's. As a seller, you must make sure marked goods came from a licence holder and carry BIS's labels and marking (BIS Act, section 18(2) and (3)); see the rules for shops and sellers.

Does one licence cover all of a supplier's furniture?

No. It covers one product and one Indian Standard at one factory, and only the varieties named in it (BIS FAQ Q24; FMCS FAQ 13, 14 and 19). A factory making chairs and beds needs at least two.

Are furniture imports into a special economic zone covered?

DGFT Notification 20/2026-27, dated June 2, 2026, exempts SEZ units and developers from QCOs for goods they import for authorized operations in the zone. Goods moved into the rest of India, and goods made from them, must meet the QCO in force at that time; see furniture QCO exemptions.

Sources

- S.O. 801(E) of 2025: Furniture (Quality Control) Order, 2025, para 2, third proviso and Table (PDF, 1.7 MB)
- S.O. 774(E): Furniture (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026, para 2, the three inserted provisos (PDF, 668 KB)
- S.O. 777(E): amendment of eight Quality Control Orders, Table, S. No. 8 (Furniture) (PDF, 777 KB)
- S.O. 1125(E): Furniture (Quality Control) Second Amendment Order, 2026, para 2 (PDF, 605 KB)
- S.O. 5950(E): Furniture (Quality Control) Third Amendment Order, 2026 (Gazette of India, November 2, 2026) (PDF, 602 KB)

- S.O. 3417(E): Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026, clauses 3(2), 4(1), 5(1) and Schedule, S. No. 9 (PDF, 746 KB)
- DPIIT: Guidelines for Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026, para 2.3 (PDF, 194 KB)
- Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016, sections 17(1), 18(2), 18(3) and 29(3) (PDF, 133 KB)
- BIS: FMCS frequently asked questions 2, 5, 6, 13 to 15, 17 and 19
- BIS: product certification FAQ, Q18, Q24, Q26 and Q27
- BIS: FMCS licensee list
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17631/2 (June 2025), work chairs, Annex A, para 1 (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17632/2 (June 2025), general purpose chairs and stools, Annex A, para 1 (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17633/2 (June 2025), tables and desks, Annex A, para 1 (PDF, 986 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17634/2 (June 2025), storage units, Annex A, para 1 (PDF, 1.0 MB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17635/1 (December 2022), beds, Annex A, para 1 (PDF, 897 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17636/1 (December 2022), bunk beds, Annex A, para 1 (PDF, 887 KB)
- Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 2938, answered August 19, 2025
- WTO ePing: India's notification G/TBT/N/IND/318 (furniture, ICS 97.140)
- WTO specific trade concern 828 (India: Furniture QCO), India's statement of June 25, 2025
- DGFT Notification 20/2026-27 (S.O. 2827(E)), dated June 2, 2026: QCOs on imports by SEZ units and developers (PDF, 561 KB)
- S.O. 1368(E) of 2025: Hinges (Quality Control) Order, 2025 (PDF, 832 KB)
- S.O. 1962(E) of 2024: Telescopic Ball Bearing Drawer Slide (Quality Control) Order, 2024 (PDF, 720 KB)
- CBIC: index of customs instructions (searched October 28, 2026)

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